

Healthy Kansas Minute Radio Interview – Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

Joe: This is the Healthy Kansas Minute. I'm Joe Blubaugh, and with me is Patrice O'Hara, Cancer Program Manager with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. Patrice, what do people need to remember most about this disease, that claims the lives of more than 1,500 Kansans each year?

Patrice: Colorectal cancer is preventable and easily detected, and it is one cancer that can be cured if found early and treated.

Joe: Who is most likely to get colorectal cancer and what can people do to protect themselves?

Patrice: Colorectal cancer can strike anyone at any age, but 9 out of 10 new cases are in people ages 50 and older. Colorectal cancer screening is recommended for men and women over 50 and for anyone with a family history of the disease, regardless of their age.

There are tests that can detect colorectal cancer, and many insurance plans will help pay for this testing. Check with your primary care physician and health insurance carrier to find out more.

Joe: Thank you, Patrice. To learn more about colorectal cancer, please visit www.cancerkansas.org. This has been the Healthy Kansas Minute!